

REMARKS

The conditional allowance of claims 3 and 6-13 is noted and appreciated.

Claims 3 and 6 have been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Consequently new base claims 3 and 6 are allowable. This also applies to claims 7-13 that depend directly or indirectly on claim 6.

Rejected dependent claim 4 has been rewritten to depend on new base claim 3 and is thus allowable.

The rejection of claims 1, 2, 5 and 15 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,399,110 (Morello) in view of US Patent 5,338,233 (Endo) is respectfully traversed.

The invention defined in these claims is directed to the electrical connection of a terminal to a solid conductor in which the elongated solid conductor has a longitudinally extending groove and the terminal has wings curling about the solid conductor and extending into the groove.

Neither the Morello '110 patent nor the Endo '233 patent disclose an electrical connection in which a terminal is crimped to a solid conductor. Both patents disclose electrical connections in which the terminal is crimped onto a multiple strand core of a cable and simply demonstrate the problem of the prior art which the invention of this patent application is designed to overcome. See the patent application specification page 1, line 13 through page 2, line 13.

The Morello '110 patent discloses a two piece male terminal 10 comprising a contact member 12 and an attachment member 14 for attaching the contact member 12 to the multiple strand core 30 and insulation 32 of an electric cable. The contact member 12 has a flattened and dished end 28. The attachment member 14 has first and second core crimping wings 46 that are formed into an open U-shaped channel

56. The flattened and dished shaped end 28 lies in the bottom of the open U-shaped channel 56 when the attachment member 14 is attached to the contact member 12. See column 3, lines 37-42 of the Morello '110 patent specification and figure 3 of the Morello '110 patent drawing.

The multiple strand core 30 of the electric cable is pressed against the upper knurled surface 28a of the flattened dished end 28 when the channel 56 is crimped onto the stranded core 30. See column 3, lines 42-46 of the Morello '110 patent specification. Thus the Morello '110 does not teach anything with respect to curling crimp wings about an elongated solid conductor.

Moreover, the Morello multiple strand core crimp is simply shown in elevation in figure 9 of the Morello '110 patent. The Morello '110 patent does not show or describe the position of the core crimp wings 46 with respect to the flattened and dished shaped end 28 after the channel is crimped onto the multiple strand core 30. Hence, the Morello '110 patent does not provide any basis for the Examiner's statement that the tips or distal edge portions of the Morello crimp wings 46 are disposed within the Morello groove 28. To the contrary, the shallow shape of the Morello "groove" 28 suggests the opposite, namely, that the tips of the Morello crimp wings 46 are held out of the Morello "groove" 28 by the presence of the multiple strand core 30 of the cable.

The Endo '233 patent discloses an electrical connection in which a terminal 3 has crimp wings 13a and 13b that are curled about the multiple strand core 7 of an electric cable to attach the terminal 3 to the electric cable. Hence, the Endo '233 patent also does not teach anything with respect to curling crimp wings about an elongated solid conductor.

Since neither the Morello '110 patent nor the Endo '233 patent disclose an electrical connection in which a terminal is crimped to an elongated solid conductor, the combination of the two patents cannot possibly disclose or suggest the inventions defined in claims 1, 2, 5 and 15 all of which require "the first wing and the second wing [of the terminal] curling about the solid conductor and projecting into the groove [of the conductor]."

With regard to dependent claim 2 and method claim 15, the Morello '110 patent does not disclose or suggest an electrical connection in which the distal edge portions of the wings are disposed in the groove of the solid conductor. This also applies to the secondary Endo '233 patent.

Dependant claim 16-20 have been added to round out the patent coverage.

Please reexamine the patent application in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

If it is determined that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and respectfully requested to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

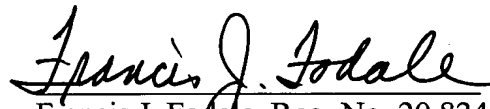
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on September 10, 2003.


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